



**State of Louisiana**  
**Governor's Office of Homeland Security**  
**and**  
**Emergency Preparedness**

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**State Agencies Continue Response to Bayou Corne Slurry  
Incident, DNR Issues Emergency Order**

**BATON ROUGE, La. -** State agencies continued their response efforts in Assumption parish today, where scientists conducted extra testing of the air and water quality around the slurry near Bayou Corne, finding no detectable levels of naturally occurring radioactive material on the surface of the slurry. State regulators from the Department of Natural Resources on Thursday evening also ordered the Texas Brine Company to immediately drill a relief well to investigate the salt cavern.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

The Department of Environmental quality reported that readings from handheld monitoring equipment indicated there were no detectable levels for naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) on the surface of the slurry hole in Assumption Parish.

This first round of data indicates to DEQ that the potential exposure of citizens to NORM is not a problem in this matter. DEQ plans to continue to provide data based on air and water sampling to local leaders and other state and federal agencies responding to the incident.

DEQ scientists went to the slurry site today in an airboat supplied by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to take readings using equipment designed to measure levels of radiation. A scientist surveyed the entire slurry hole via airboat while monitoring with the equipment. At no point were there any detectable levels. NORM readings were taken on the 15 water samples that were collected yesterday and there were no levels above background.

NORM is present in the earth's crust and reaches the surface through activities like oil and gas exploration or mining. It can also reach the surface through natural processes.

Scientists today also took four water samples and a soil sample which will be sent to the lab for more detailed analysis. Those results will be back early next week, as DEQ has asked the lab to provide expedited analysis.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

At the Department of Natural Resources, the Commissioner of Conservation amended an emergency declaration issued to the Texas Brine Company on August 3, requiring the company to take immediate action.

This amendment requires that Texas Brine expeditiously drill a well to investigate the salt cavern and to further evaluate potential causes of the subsidence near its well site. The company must also obtain samples of any cavern content and provide daily reports on the progress of the activity.

The Office of Conservation is also working in coordination with DEQ to obtain representative groundwater samples collected from water wells located in the Bayou Corne area screened in the Mississippi River Alluvial aquifer. Sample analyses will provide quantified values for determining the presence of saltwater at each well location and will be used to indicate relative presence of dissolved natural gas compounds in the ground water at each well location. It is expected that this information will provide insight into the extent of natural gas present in the Mississippi River Alluvial aquifer underlying the area surrounding the slurry hole and near Bayou Corne natural gas seeps.

DNR will also be receiving Daily Incident Action Plans from all cavern and pipeline operators and these will be made available on the DNR Website, [www.dnr.louisiana.gov](http://www.dnr.louisiana.gov).

## **SUPPORTING LOCAL EFFORTS**

A number of state agencies are providing support to local Assumption parish officials as they respond to the slurry site near Bayou Corne. The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness continues to coordinate communication and requests for support among local, state and federal agencies

The Louisiana State Police Air Support Unit continues to provide regularly scheduled assessment flights over the area for parish and state officials. So far, State Police has provided almost two dozen flights over the area, with more planned as requested by the parish. LSP HazMat Technicians continue to monitor the incident and provide support as needed. The Louisiana National Guard continues to provide nighttime air support, per the request of local officials, so that parish officials can monitor the slurry site after dark.

For several weeks, state, local and federal officials have been investigating reports of unexplained bubbling and tremors in the area. Last week, an area of wooded swamp located in this area began to subside, engulfing large trees and creating a several hundred foot diameter area of a slurry mixture of muddy water and soil where trees and vegetation were the day before.

Assumption parish declared a state of emergency in order to monitor and respond to the threat posed by this incident to its citizens. Last week, Governor Bobby Jindal declared an emergency for the incident, which allows GOHSEP to pull resources from state agencies as needed to assist Assumption parish officials in responding to the incident.

## **ONLINE RESOURCES**

Local and state agencies are posting information and testing results online.

Assumption parish:

<http://assumptionla.com/bayoucorne>

Department of Natural Resources:

<http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=939&pnid=0&nid=172>

Department of Environmental Quality:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/bayoucorne.aspx>

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